

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement, this is the day for the call of the Private Calendar.

The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

OSCAR SALAS-VELAZQUEZ

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 1031) for the relief of Oscar Salas-Velazquez.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 1031

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. WAIVER OF GROUNDS FOR DISAPPROVAL OF REQUESTS FOR CLASSIFICATION AND ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 204(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Attorney General may not disapprove a petition for classification of Oscar Salas-Velazquez under section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) of such Act, or an application for adjustment of the status of Oscar Salas-Velazquez under section 245 of such Act, on any ground relating to a determination that the marriage of Oscar Salas-Velazquez and Jennifer Christine Brady was entered into for the purpose of evading the immigration laws.

(b) WAIVER OF INADMISSIBILITY.—Notwithstanding subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of section 212(a)(6) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Oscar Salas-Velazquez may not be considered to be within a class of excludable aliens at any time on or after the date of the enactment of this Act on any ground relating to—

(1) a determination that the marriage of Oscar Salas-Velazquez and Jennifer Christine Brady was entered into for the purpose of evading the immigration laws; or

(2) the deportation of Oscar Salas-Velazquez on February 9, 1995.

With the following committee amendment in the nature of a substitute:

Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute: Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. WAIVER OF GROUNDS FOR DISAPPROVAL OF REQUESTS FOR CLASSIFICATION AND ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 204(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Attorney General may not disapprove a petition for classification of Oscar Salas-Velazquez under section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) of such Act, or an application for adjustment of the status of Oscar Salas-Velazquez under section 245 of such Act, on any ground relating to a determination that the marriage of Oscar Salas-Velazquez and Jennifer Christine Brady was entered into for the purpose of evading the immigration laws.

(b) WAIVER OF INADMISSIBILITY.—Notwithstanding subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of section 212(a)(6) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Oscar Salas-Velazquez may not be considered to be within a class of excludable aliens at any time on or after the date of the enactment of this Act on any ground relating to—

(1) a determination that the marriage of Oscar Salas-Velazquez and Jennifer Christine Brady was entered into for the purpose of evading the immigration laws; or

(2) the deportation of Oscar Salas-Velazquez on February 9, 1995.

(c) DENIAL OF PREFERENTIAL IMMIGRATION TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES.—The natural parents, brothers, and sisters of Oscar Salas-Velazquez shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Oscar Salas-Velazquez, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 1, for the current or next following fiscal year, the worldwide level of family-sponsored immigrants under section 201(c)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this legislation, H.R. 1031, is to reunite a family that has been ripped apart.

This bill is not about policy or politics. It is about bringing back a father for two adorable little boys, ages 3 and 6, who have missed their dad so much that they have cried every day for almost 2 years.

It is about bringing together a loving husband and wife who have been devastated for almost 2 years.

Mr. Speaker, this bill deals with the human side of government—the side that directly impacts families, mothers, fathers, and children.

Mr. Speaker, my staff and I have worked to help the Oscar and Sharron Velazquez family of Plymouth, MN, for more than 3 years.

For the past 2 years, we have worked to reunite Sharron Velazquez and her two young sons, Rico, 6, and Nicolas, 3, who have been separated from their husband and father, Oscar Velazquez. Oscar was deported in early 1995 and has been forced to live far away from his family in Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, this is truly a case of undue hardship that justifies the return of Oscar Velazquez.

Because Sharron Velazquez has a special medical condition that predisposes her to Reiter's Syndrome, a crippling disease with no cure, doctors have forbidden her from joining or even visiting her husband in Mexico.

According to medical experts who have examined Sharron Velazquez extensively, she has the antigen for Reiter's Syndrome, which would be triggered by organisms in the food and water in Mexico.

The unique circumstances facing this family certainly merit passage of this bill. This has been a long and tortuous struggle for the Velazquez family and their extended family, Jim and Julie Libby, Karen and Ron LePage, Ted and Therese Salonek, Rich and Becky Farniok and Patricia Morrison, and their many wonderful friends who have never lost faith that justice and fairness would prevail.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my gratitude, on behalf of the Velazquez and Libby families, to several people whose assistance was crucial in moving this bill.

Our colleagues from the Judiciary Committee, especially Chairman HYDE, Chairman

LAMAR SMITH and Mr. SENSENBRENNER, were key in moving this bill through the Immigration and Claims Subcommittee and the full Judiciary Committee. On the other side, ranking member BRYANT was also very supportive.

Also, special thanks to Cindy Blackston of the Immigration and Claims Subcommittee and Karin Hope of my staff, who worked so hard on this bill and whose expertise and counsel have been invaluable.

Finally, I am grateful to Senator HATCH and his staff, who have also been very helpful.

Mr. Speaker, a loving family awaits Oscar Velazquez, his employer eagerly awaits his return, and the members of this church, who have been holding nightly vigils, are praying for Oscar's return.

Let us put politics totally aside here and do the right thing for the Velazquez family.

Let us right a wrong. Let us reunite the Velazquez family by passing H.R. 1031.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NGUYEN QUY AN AND NGUYEN NGOC KIM QUY

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 1087) for the relief of Nguyen Quy An and Nguyen Ngoc Kim Quy.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 1087

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR NGUYEN QUY AN AND NGUYEN NGOC KIM QUY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Nguyen Quy An and Nguyen Ngoc Kim Quy shall each be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Nguyen Quy An or Nguyen Ngoc Kim Quy enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), he or she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Nguyen Quy An and Nguyen Ngoc Kim Quy, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 2, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under section 202(e) of such Act.

With the following committee amendment in the nature of a substitute: